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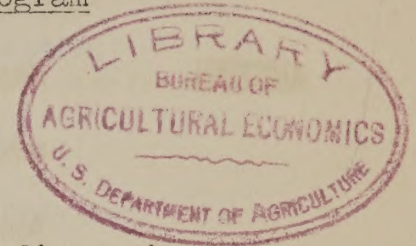
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Adjustment Administration

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

For Use or Adaptation in Developing Discussion at the First  
Meetings on the 1938 Agricultural Conservation Program

WESTERN REGION



(Following the talks suggested in the program outline, discussion should be encouraged by the discussion leader of the meetings -- at the State, District, County, and Community meetings. The questions and answers given below are suggested for use or reference and may be incorporated in the State, District, County, and Community programs being developed by the State Directors of the Cooperative Extension Service and the State Agricultural Conservation Committees for educational meetings scheduled in their respective States.)

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QUESTION 1. -- What are the principal objectives under the declared policy of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act?

ANSWER ..... (A) Preservation and improvement of soil fertility;  
(B) Promotion of the economic use and conservation of land; (C) Reduction of exploitation and wasteful and unscientific use of the Nation's soil resources; and  
(D) Reestablishment, at as rapid a rate as practicable, of the ratio between purchasing power of the net income per person on farms and persons not on farms which prevailed for the 5-year period August 1909 to July 1914, and the maintenance of this ratio.

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QUESTION 2.-- Under what provisions of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act is the Secretary of Agriculture authorized to make payments to producers participating in the Agricultural Conservation Program?

ANSWER...... Payments under the Agricultural Conservation Program are made pursuant to the provisions of Section 8 of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act approved February 29, 1936. This section authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture, within certain limitations set forth therein, to make payments to producers measured by (1) their treatment or use of land for soil restoration, conservation, or erosion prevention, (2) changes in the use of their land, (3) a percentage of their normal production of one or more designated agricultural commodities equal to that percentage of the total normal national production of that commodity or of those commodities required for the total domestic U. S. consumption. Payments may be made on any one or any combination of these bases of measurement.

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QUESTION 3.---What is the purpose of the payments made to farmers under the Agricultural Conservation Program?

ANSWER...... The payments are made to farmers to help them meet the costs of adjusting their production of certain soil-depleting crops and of adopting soil-conserving practices, both of which are in the national interest and



both of which promote more economic use of the Nation's land.

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QUESTION 4. -- How do the agricultural conservation payments compare with the total income earned by the Nation's farmers.

ANSWER...... Payments for 1936 amounted to about \$400,000,000.

Farmers' cash income for 1936 was about \$8,000,000,000.

The agricultural conservation payments were only about 5 per cent of the total income of farmers in 1936. The payments, although they amounted to only a small part of most farmers' incomes, did, however, make it possible for the cooperating farmers to adopt methods which are in line with the objectives of the National Agricultural Conservation Program and which tend to increase the total income earned by farmers. Without this financial help, many farmers could not have adopted these better methods.

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QUESTION 5. -- Why should farmers in all regions need, and therefore want, to gain a thorough understanding of the problems in all the other regions of the country?

ANSWER...... The Agricultural Conservation Program is a national program.

The Nation's different agricultural problems in the different parts of the country are various in character, so therefore the solutions for each individual set of conditions must be varied to fit it. This fact makes it all the more necessary for farmers and range livestock men in the different regions of the country to realize that their under-



lying interests are the same. The farm and range problems of the United States are, basically, one problem. Is the problem of maintaining producers' income and the fertility of the Nation's soil, so that agricultural producers and range livestock men may enjoy an equitable standard of living.

The geographical area of the United States / has been divided by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration into five administrative regions, but this solely for the purpose of facilitating administration of the national program.

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See "FARM SOLIDARITY", an address made by Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, at Louisville, Ky., on October 2, 1937; and "CHARTING THE COURSE FOR COTTON", an address made by Secretary Wallace at Memphis, Tenn., on October 1, 1937, which, in addition to outlining the cotton problem, also defines a broad policy applicable to all phases of agriculture.

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QUESTION 6. -- How is the administration of the Agricultural Conservation Program handled?

ANSWER......The Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act places upon the Secretary of Agriculture the duty of administering the program. Also, the Act states that the Secretary is authorized to cooperate with the county and community committees of agricultural producers in the County and District Agricultural Conservation Associations and with the Federal-State Agricultural



Cooperative Extension Service in the States, or other approved State agencies, in carrying out the provisions of Section 8 (b), which deals with the making of payments to producers taking part in the program. The program is administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and the cooperating agencies. For the purpose of administration, five regional divisions were established in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. In each State of each region there is a State Agricultural Conservation Committee, which coordinates the operation of the program in the counties and as among the counties and the Washington, D. C., office. The State Agricultural Conservation Committee consists usually of five farmers, these appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. In the Western Region the head of the State Agricultural Conservation office is also the Executive Secretary of the State Agricultural Conservation Committee. The State Committee and the Executive Secretary work in close cooperation with the State Director of the Cooperative Extension Service. Actual field operation of the program, however, rests primarily with the County Agricultural Conservation Committee elected by the Board of Directors of the County Agricultural Conservation Association.

This follows closely the provisions of the Act as well as the policy of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration established under the Agricultural Adjustment Programs inaugurated in 1933. Each farmer participating in the program becomes a member of the County Agricultural Conservation Association and has the right to participate in the election of the community committeemen. The farmer elected chairman of the community committee automatically becomes a member of the Board of Directors of the county association, which in turn elects the county committee, which is responsible for the local administration of the program in the county.

QUESTION 7. -- What assistance is available to the County Agricultural Conservation Committee in getting information about the Program to the farmers?

ANSWER ..... The Cooperation of the County Extension Agent and of community committeemen and other interested farmers.

QUESTION 8. -- What are some of the things farmers should have in mind when they elect their community committeemen?

ANSWER ..... Farmers should place the utmost importance on the election of community committeemen, because these committeemen have an important part in the attainment of the objectives of the Agricultural Conservation Program.



If those who take part in the nation-wide cooperative effort desire the greatest degree of democracy in the operation of the program, they should look upon their community committeemen as persons who have the closest possible contact with farmers in other parts of the county, the State, and the Nation. Therefore there should always be free, open, and frank discussion, by the largest possible number of cooperating producers, as to the qualifications and availability of those whose names are proposed for the community committee membership.

Inasmuch as the chairman of the community committee automatically becomes a Director of the County Agricultural Conservation Association, and the Association Directors elect from their own number the three county committeemen, it is important that the chairman of the community committee be well qualified to function not only as community committeeman but also as a member of the County Board of Directors of the Association, and possibly as a member of the County Committee.

The community committeeman's responsibility should be regarded as important as that of any other person connected with the Agricultural Conservation Program. Farmers elected as community committeemen should be vitally interested in the objectives of the program, and also should be men who intend to learn the details of the program as rapidly as possible, and to transmit such information to the farmers in their respective com-



munities. They should assist in explaining to the farmers and others in their community the fundamentals of the program and also in filling out the forms which are necessary to participate in the program.

In addition to the qualifications of the men selected, other factors should be kept in mind, including geographical location and type of farming. In a community where the soil types and farming conditions are different, consideration should be given to the selection of the men best fitted to give proper, unbiased, and impartial attention to the most effective administration of the program for all types of farming and for the welfare of all the farmers.

Another fundamental reason why this community election is the first important step in the administration of the national program, is that the election can, in a large measure, guard against improper and unnecessary county costs in administering the program. The local county costs are shared by all those who cooperate in the program, and, therefore, should be kept to the lowest possible figure consistent with good and effective administration. The members of the Board of Directors of the County Association are the ones who prepare the budget for the county.

The matter of the geographic location of the people in the county also is important in the election of the



members of the county committee by the Board of Directors of the County Association. The county committeemen should be selected from different parts of the county, so that the committee as a whole will have the benefit of a broad knowledge of the interests of all the farmers in the county and of all types of farming in the county.

QUESTIONS ON THE WHEAT SITUATION

QUESTION 9. -- With the largest acreage ever seeded to wheat in the United States, for the 1937 harvest (about 81 million acres), why were wheat prices relatively high in September 1937?

ANSWER ..... (A). The world wheat crop was short;  
(B). The all-commodity price index has been rising;  
(C). The United States carryover was small; and  
(D). United States export prospects were brighter.

QUESTION 10. -- If wheat farmers should again seed 81 million acres to wheat, for the 1938 harvest, how large a crop could be expected?

ANSWER ..... (A). Assuming a yield per seeded acre of 8.1 bushels -- the record low yield of 1933 -- a crop sufficient to meet the Nation's domestic needs would be produced.



(B). Assuming a yield per seeded acre of 15.1 bushels -- the yield in 1924 -- a crop of about 1,200 million bushels would be produced.

(C). Assuming average yields per acre, a crop of around 950 million bushels would be produced.

QUESTION 11. -- How many bushels of wheat does the United States ordinarily use, domestically, for food, feed, and seed?

ANSWER ..... About 650 million bushels.

QUESTION 12. -- With average yields per seeded acre, how many acres would have to be seeded to wheat to supply our domestic requirements for wheat?

ANSWER ..... Only about 55 million acres.

QUESTION 13. -- What are the prospects for the wheat growers of the United States in connection with the 1938 crop?

ANSWER ..... Unless world wheat production in 1938 is again small, or world import demand increases beyond present expectations, prices of wheat and income to United States wheat growers from the 1938 crop may be expected to be materially lower than during the current marketing season.



QUESTIONS OF INTEREST TO RANGE LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

QUESTION 14. -- Will there be a Range Conservation Program in 1938?

ANSWER ..... Yes.

QUESTION 15. -- Is the range program intended to accomplish for the range livestock men what the general program is intended to accomplish for the farmer?

ANSWER ..... Conservation and stability are common objectives running through both the range and cropland programs. The range program helps the stockman to conserve his range and build up its carrying capacity so that it may more successfully withstand the damaging effects of serious droughts, thereby introducing more stability into the range livestock industry.

QUESTION 16. -- Why are beef prices high this Fall?

ANSWER ..... Because of a relatively small supply of fed cattle, and because of a relatively strong consumer demand for beef. The relative scarcity of fed cattle has been caused, mainly, by poor pasture conditions and by scarcity of feed grains, especially corn, due to the serious drought of 1936.



QUESTION 17. -- Why are prices for feeder cattle high this Fall?

ANSWER ..... Prices of feeder cattle are high partly because of shorter supplies due to droughts, and the increase in demand for well-fleshed heavy feeders for slaughter, but mostly because of an increase in demand for cattle to feed, due to an unusually large supply, in 1937, of feed grains per livestock unit and the high prices being paid at the present time for finished cattle.

QUESTION 18. -- What determines the price of cattle marketed for meat? What determines the price of feeder cattle?

ANSWER ..... Prices of slaughter cattle are determined mainly by the relative supplies of the various grades of cattle and the relative effective demand on the part of consumers for beef. The amount of the supplies of other competing kinds of livestock, and the relative stocks of meat products in storage, are also important. Prices of feeder cattle are determined by the relative supplies of feeders and the demand for such cattle on the part of those who want cattle to feed.

QUESTION 19. -- What effect will the unusually large supply of corn and feed grains per animal have upon meat production?



ANSWER ..... The present unusually large supply of corn and feed grains per animal unit, coupled with the present high level of prices for finished cattle, will tend to increase the number of cattle on feed, and there are strong indications that before many months the supply of beef will be greatly increased because of the larger numbers of fed cattle coming to market. Also, there will be a tendency to feed to heavier weights and to market cattle carrying a greater degree of finish.

QUESTION 20. -- How is this likely to affect producers of range livestock?

ANSWER ..... The present relatively high level of prices for all classes and grades of cattle may influence many range livestock operators to expand their operations. Also, it may tempt new operators into the business; but oftentimes it is a good practice, before deciding upon such action, to look ahead and try to determine what the demand will be for calves, feeders, and fat cattle one, two, or three years hence. Present indications point to greater numbers of cattle on feed late in the Summer and early in the Fall in 1938, with resulting prices no higher, and perhaps lower, as compared with the same period in 1937. Western livestock men should be aware of the fact that present indications point toward an expansion in hog numbers,

beginning with a larger Spring pig crop in 1938. When pork becomes more plentiful and lower in price, its competition is bound to be reflected in the price of beef, and this in turn will be reflected in the prices of calves, feeders, and stock cattle.

QUESTION 21. -- After 1938, what is the next step to be taken with respect to conservation of privately-owned range lands?

ANSWER ..... The range programs of the A.A.A. up to the present time have largely been practice programs, although deferred grazing was introduced in 1937 and will be a part of the 1938 program. Looking ahead in terms of conservation and stability in the Western livestock industry, as conducted on privately-owned land, is it desirable that more and more emphasis should be placed on deferred and rotation grazing in the future, in order to accomplish the objectives of real range conservation in the West?

QUESTIONS IN REGARD TO THE COTTON SITUATION

QUESTION 22. -- What is the present cotton supply situation?

ANSWER ..... The world supply of all cotton for the 1937-38 season is preliminarily estimated at nearly 50 million bales, the largest supply in history. The carry-over of American cotton on August 1 was slightly less than a year ago, but an indicated production of 17,573,000



bales for 1937 is more than 5,000,000 bales larger than the 1936 crop. The indicated yield per acre of 249.3 pounds, as estimated on October 1, 1937, is the highest yield on record. It is estimated that the world carry-over of American cotton on August 1, 1938, will approximate 11,000,000 bales.

QUESTION 23. -- What is the cotton consumption situation?

ANSWER ..... The world consumption of all kinds of cotton was at a record high level during the season just past. Utilization of American cotton in the United States was the largest in history, but consumption of American cotton by foreign countries was extremely small. The small consumption of American cotton by foreign mills was due partly to import restrictions, the substitution of synthetic fibers, and the relatively high prices for American cotton. Larger supplies of foreign cottons (Brazilian, for example), of grade and staple directly competitive with American cotton, have been responsible, in a large degree, for the decrease in importance of American cotton in the world market.

QUESTION 24. -- Why does the United States continue to import a small amount of cotton?

ANSWER ..... Because the United States usually produces more than twice as much cotton as it consumes, and in recent

years has been encouraging restriction of production, it is not surprising that there should be some confusion in some people's minds as to why raw cotton is imported into the United States. Most of the cotton imported either differs in quality from American cotton, or is needed to supplement certain qualities not produced in the United States in sufficient volume to meet domestic spinning requirements. Extra long-staple varieties, and varieties having unusual spinning characteristics, predominate in the present U. S. cotton imports. Imports in the last year are somewhat larger than in the last several years, but a total importation of about 250,000 bales is very small in relation to the total domestic consumption of about 8 million bales in 1936-37.

QUESTION 25. -- What is the average U. S. production of cotton per farm?

ANSWER ..... The average acreage of cotton per farm in the United States, according to the U. S. Census, is about 14 acres per farm. On the average, each farm produces only about 5 bales. According to the Census data, the average acreage of cotton per farm in Arizona, California, and New Mexico is 47 acres per farm, more than 3 1/4 times as large as the average for all the cotton-producing States. In these three Southwestern States an average of 48 bales is produced per farm, or more than 9 times as much as the average for all the cotton-producing States.



It is estimated that more than 10 million people live on cotton farms.

QUESTION 26. -- How are the objectives of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act to be accomplished under the 1938 Agricultural Conservation Program?

ANSWER ..... The approach under the 1938 program is the establishment of goals to be achieved. These goals are:

(A). National goals will be set up for total soil-depleting crops and for certain individual soil-depleting crops. These national goals will be sub-divided into State, county, and individual farm goals. In respect to cotton, tobacco, and rice, goals will be established for these crops for individual farms in each county where they are grown; and, in addition, corn, potato, and peanut goals will be established for individual farms in the counties in the principal commercial producing areas of these crops.

(B). A soil-building goal will be established for each farm. This goal involves the carrying out of soil-conserving practices, which include the growing of soil-conserving crops.

QUESTION 27. -- What are the proposed national goals for various crops?

ANSWER: ..... Tentative goals for soil-depleting crops are as follows:

CROP	1938 GOAL (ACRES)
Corn .....	92,000,000 - 96,000,000
Cotton .....	29,000,000 - 31,000,000
Rice .....	825,000 - 875,000
Tobacco .....	- 1,550,000
Potatoes .....	3,100,000 - 3,300,000
General .....	145,000,000 - 155,000,000
All soil-Depleting* ...	275,000,000 - 290,000,000

\* Sugar beets and sugar cane included.

QUESTION 28. -- What goals will be established for individual farms?

ANSWER ..... The County Agricultural Conservation Committee will establish a soil-depleting acreage goal and a soil-building goal for each farm. The soil-depleting goal will be the individual farmer's share of the national soil-depleting goal. This goal for the individual farm will be determined by the County Committee, after full consideration of such factors as the amount of tillable land on the farm, the type of soil, the slope and general topography of the land, and the acreages of crops ordinarily grown on the farm. The soil-building goal for each farm will be the amount of soil-conserving crops or practices necessary for the farm to have in order to



qualify in the program. The soil-building goal also will be established by the County Committee.

QUESTION 29. -- What is the connection between the goals for the individual farm and the payment the farmer receives?

ANSWER.....One payment for each farm will be calculated, and this entire payment may be earned by the farmer if his performance conforms with the goals for his farm. The amount of the payment will depend upon the acreages in the goals for the farm and upon the acreages in other uses on the farm, and also upon the productivity of the land.

QUESTION 30. -- What happens if a farmer exceeds his soil-depleting goal or fails to reach the soil-building goal for his farm?

ANSWER.....The full payment calculated for the farm will not be made, but partial payment may be made.

QUESTION 31. -- How may commercial vegetable growers and commercial orchardists participate in the 1938 program?

ANSWER.....Vegetable growers can participate by carrying out soil-building practices and by meeting soil-depleting goals, and orchardists by carrying out soil-building practices.

QUESTION 32. -- What provision is made to encourage farmers to allow certain land to go back to grass?



ANSWER.....In the 1938 program, certain acreages will be classified by County Agricultural Conservation Committees as restoration land. This land will be land which is better suited to the growing of native grasses than to remain as cultivated land, and a certain rate of payment per acre will be allowed for it.

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